

NOTE

As this work is strictly a history of England and not of Wycliffism, I have felt no call to enter into the second half of Wycliffe's work—his influence on continental affairs. In some sense this is an omission even from the point of view of English history, for his doctrines were adopted by the Hussites, the BLus^tes to a greater or less extent affected Lutheranism, and Lutheranism reacted on England. In a Bohemian psalter of 1572 appears a symbolical picture representing Wycliffe striking the spark, Huss kindling the coals, and Luther brandishing the lighted torch.¹ To some extent this truly represents the case; for it is scarcely too much to say that the works of Huss were repetitions or paraphrases of Wycliffe's writings.² The degree to which the Hussite movement hastened or affected the German Reformation is a question which is best left to the Germans themselves.

Besides England and Bohemia, Lollardy found a hazardous home 'in a country which in institutions and society at that time differed from England almost as much as from Bohemia, although in the race and character of the inhabitants the kinship with the English was very close. As far back as 1407 an English Wycliffite named John Beseby, flying from the persecutors in his own land, had taken refuge in Scotland, probably the first Presbyterian to set foot on that kindly soil. Whether his eyes were delighted with angelic visions of future Kirk Assemblies, it is for poets to say; but in any case the Pope had the better of it for the time, and the Scotch Bishops burned the intruder at the stake.³ Either Eeseby, or other such English fugitives, brought over the Border writings of Wycliffe, which were read and treasured by Scotch Lollards in great fear and secrecy during the early years of the fifteenth century.⁴ In 1425 the sect was large enough to

* ¹ *John Wiclif, Patriot and Reformer*, Buddensieg, p. 9.
Wyclif and Hus, Loserth, bk. ii. 181-280 in Evans's translation.

* Spottiswood, "bk. ii., gives the date 1407; Bower's Continuation of Fordun makes it 1408. In any case it is not 1422, as one might think from Knox.

* Walter Bower's Continuation of Tordun; see Burton's *History of Scotland*, ed. 1867, Hi. 951.